

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 AGR-03 HEW-01 L-02

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FM USLO PEKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1000

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE IMPORTATION OF MEAT FROM PRC

REF: A) PEKING 0617 B) STATE A-6053

SUMMARY. USLO AND PRC OFFICIALS EXCHANGED US AND CHINESE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO POSSIBLE EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS FROM CHINA TO THE US. THE PRC SIDE SEEMED LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN IN JULY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING EARLY ARRANGEMENTS TO PERMIT SUCH EXPORTS. ACTION REQUESTED: USDA COMMENTS ON PRC REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 6 USLO OFFICERS HOROWITZ AND ROPE MET WITH FU HSING, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS AND FOODSTUFFS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION, FOR PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FU WITH COPIES OF USDA MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS AND USDA REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION ACT IN 1972 (REF B).

2. HOROWITZ OPENED DISCUSSION BY RECAPITULATING HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY 20 MEETING (REF A). HE NOTED THAT AS IS THE CASE WITH MOST COUNTRIES WHICH IMPORT MEAT, THE US HAS LAWS AND REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PROTECT CONSUMERS, AND SUGGESTED

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THAT BECAUSE IT TAKES TIME TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS

TO PERMIT US MEAT IMPORTS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, IT IS GOOD TO BEGIN PROCEDURES EARLY. HE STRESSED THAT INSPECTION PROCEDURES APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL COUNTRIES WHICH TRADE WITH THE US IN MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ARE RECIPROCAL. IN PRESENTING THE COPY OF THE USDA REPORT TO CONGRESS (MENTIONED ABOVE), HE EXPLAINED THAT IT INCLUDES INFORMATION ON ALL THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE US HAS MEAT IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS. HE ALSO REFERRED TO FU'S REQUEST ON JULY 20 FOR INFORMATION ON US IMPORTS, AND EXPLAINED THAT THE REPORT INCLUDES DETAILED INFORMATION ON TYPES, QUANTITIES AND SOURCES OF US PURCHASES OF MEAT PRODUCTS. HE SPENT SOME TIME DISCUSSING THE FIGURES PRESENTED IN THE REPORT, AND MADE A POINT OF READING OFF THE NAMES OF ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH EXPORT CANNED PORK TO THE US, A LIST WHICH INCLUDES A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST AS WELL AS NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

3. FU EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE REGULATIONS AND THE REPORT. HE SAID THAT SINCE WE HAVE JUST STARTED TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF MEAT TRADE, "A PERIOD OF TIME" WILL BE NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR DEALINGS IN THIS AREA. FU SAID THAT PRC EXPORTS OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRC REGULATIONS, ARE FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, AND MEET SANITARY REQUIREMENTS. HE SAID THAT AFTER THE CHINESE HAVE STUDIED THE US REGULATIONS IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO EXCHANGE FURTHER IDEAS AT ANOTHER MEETING.

4. FU ALSO PROVIDED TWO COPIES OF AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE PRC'S "TENTATIVE PROVISIONS FOR SANITARY INSPECTION OF FOOD ANIMALS." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE "TENTATIVE" REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT AT THE PRESENT TIME AND THAT, ALTHOUGH THE REGULATIONS ARE DATED NOVEMBER 1959, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS.

5. HOROWITZ THANKED FU FOR THE CHINESE REGULATIONS AND SAID WE WOULD SEND THEM TO WASHINGTON FOR STUDY. HE THEN REMINDED FU OF THE USG PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF EXPERTS WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE JULY 20 MEETING. FU REPLIED THAT "ON THESE INSPECTION MATTERS, THE EXPERTS ARE ALREADY IN INDIRECT CONTACT THROUGH US." EVENTUALLY, HE SAID, EXPERTS WOULD HAVE TO GET TOGETHER "FOR DIRECT CONTACT," BUT THIS

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WOULD HAVE TO COME LATER. IN THE MEANTIME, BOTH SIDES SHOULD STUDY EACH OTHER'S REGULATIONS. THEN, IF EITHER SIDE HAS FURTHER QUESTIONS, ANOTHER MEETING COULD BE HELD. IN THAT CASE, HE SAID, THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN HIS ASSOCIATE HOU CHUN (ALSO PRESENT) AND MR. ROPE.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THIS MEETING, LIKE THE ONE ON JULY 20, WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL, IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT FU

WAS LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF ARRANGEMENTS TO PERMIT TRADE IN MEAT BETWEEN THE US AND THE PRC. IN CONTRAST TO THE FIRST MEETING WHEN HE SAID THAT ONE A HALF YEARS WAS TOO LONG A PERIOD OF PREPARATION, HE NOW SEEMED TO BE IN NO HURRY, AND HE SEEMED QUITE CONTENT TO HAND THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS TO A SUBORDINATE. WE ASSUME THIS CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AT LEAST IN PART REFLECTS A REALIZATION BY FU THAT US REGULATIONS ON MEAT IMPORTS ARE STRICT AND MAY POSE PROBLEMS FOR THE CHINESE SIDE. AS POINTED OUT IN PEKING 0678, PRC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRADE IN MEAT PRODUCTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES HAVE ALL ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES OVER INSPECTION OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD PURSUE THE MATTER UNTIL A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRC POSITION HAS BEEN OBTAINED.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: USLO WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE COMMENTS OF USDA EXPERTS ON THE CHINESE REGULATIONS, WHICH ARE BEING FORWARDED TO PRCM BY POUCH FOR APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION. WHEN WE HAVE SUCH COMMENTS, OR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, WE WILL SCHEDULE ANOTHER MEETING. PRESUMABLY THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WITH MR. HOU WHO, WE ASSUME, HAS WORKING-LEVEL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRC MEAT EXPORTS.
JENKINS

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